The A. F. of L. Weekly News service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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RUSSIAN WORKERS SHORN BY REACTION AND REVOLUTION

SOVIETS SEEK U. S. RECOGNITION

No Worse Blunder Could Be Made Than for Nation to Send Delegates to Genoa Conference.

Washington, Jan. 28.—President Compers has issued a forceful argument against the United States sending delegates to the Genoa economic conference if Lenine and Trotzky or delegates from Soviet Russia are to be admitted.

Declaring that the British concession-hunters in the British-Soviet trade agreement of a year ago failed in their hidden purpose of getting their grip on the resources of Russia, Mr. Gompers says they have made their new plan the "chief order of business of Lloyd George's Genoa conference." The new plan is: Let all governments and financiers unite to furnish the required capital and to legalize Lenine's title to everything in Russia by "official" recognition. "In a word," he says, "the Soviet Plunder-band is to sell Russia, including her future, to the proposed 'Central International Corporation,' or at least such parts of Russia as the financiers want, and the Bolshevists feel they do not need for their purposes.

Aspire to U. S. Recognition.

"Lenine and Trotzky," he continues, "already have the quasi recognition of Lloyd George. That to which the soviet regime aspires is the recognition of the United States and that recognition would be given if the United States were to accept the invitation to the Genoa conference.

"In some circles it has been intimated that the United States Government ought to accept the invitation to send delegates to Genoa and at the conference denounce and repudiate the whole scheme of things. No worse blunder could be made.

Would Prolong Dictatorship.

"To accept the invitation and go to Genoa would be a pronouncement that would go out throughout the world that Lenine and Trotzky are to be recognized, and any statement made to dissent from or repudiate sovietism at Genoa would receive but little attention from the great masses of the world. At this time the Russian people have stopped groping and are now intelligently manifesting their dissent and opposition to the unwarranted dictatorship and cruelty of the Lenine and Trotzky regime. The Bolshevki regime in Russia is disintegrating faster than is generally known. In life can be prolonged only by the political, economic and moral support of the United States.

"Recognition now would give temporarily an added strength to a regime that must fall before there can be a final solution of Russia's domestic difficulties and her foreign relations, without contributing anything material to immediate relief of her people. The bolshevist dictatorship will pass, whereupon those who now seek to save it in defiance of all principles of democracy, right and justice, will have to admit their error and retrace their steps in order to establish relations with the them."

The Genoa Conference

At the recent meeting of the Allied Supreme Council of the League of Nations, held at Cannes, France, Lloyd George, British premier, proposed that a world economic conference be held.

The council called the conference for Genoa, Italy, in March.

Among the nations which have been invited to attend are the United States, Germany and Russia.

The ostensible purpose is to discuss world economic conditions and to seek a remedy for them. The real purpose is exposed in President Compers' article, condensed because of the limits of space.

democracy that is certain to come and which the present policy of the United States so evidently foresees.

"The Genoa conference openly combines the ideas of Lloyd George, Stinnes and Lenine. It prepares the way for an open triple alliance of unrepentant Germany, Sovietized Russia, and certain British politicians.

Sinister Politics Behind It.

"In order to secure the attendance of America, Lloyd George at first called the Genoa conference purely economic. There is also a sinister political object behind it—an object he later admitted in an interview in which he said the first point on the agenda would be the economic questions but 'peace'—a political treaty, that is, with Lenine. The Soviets, the most impoverished of European governments, supports, at the expense of its starving agricultural serfs and industrial slaves, the largest army in the world, 1,500,000 men, and they have just decided to maintain this army and to use it to trade for recognition and credits at Genoa.

"The reactionaries and revolutionaries of the world are coming hands permanently to enthrall the masses and enslave labor in Russia. This is not the first example of the support of revolutionary organizations for reactionary purposes. But it is the first such effort on a world scale.

Americans for Russian Freedom.

"The American workers, the American people, the writer of this article, have had and now have a deep admiration and affection for the Russian people. Because of this they are firm in the stand they have taken against the brutalities of the tyranny which today holds Russia in its grip. For more than forty years the President of the American Federation of Labor has been engaged in efforts to bring about the freedom of the Russian people and the American labor movement has been committed from its earliest days to that cause. There will be no turning back now. The road, no abandonment of principle, no act of seeming expediency. The Russian people can not be free while they are subject to a dictatorship. There is no counterfeit for freedom, and though there may be some who are deceived in the day when freedom exists, the American labor movement is not among them."

Compulsory Arbitration Strangles Standard Eight-Hour Workday And Gives $50,000,000 to Railroads

Chicago, Jan. 28.—Railway clerks, freight handlers, express and station employes know what compulsory arbitration means to them. Under the decision of the United States railroad labor board, recently handed down, the standard eight-hour workday is not protected. Overtime pay does not become effective until after nine hours' work. Through the decision the railroad owners are handed a gift of $50,000,000.

In money, this gift makes a total of $140,000,000 which the railroads have been authorized to take from the wages of the railroad workers since the passage of the Cummins-Esch law in 1920. The gross reduction in wages put into effect by the labor board amounted to $400,000,000, the repeal of the numerous agreements under which railroad workers received time and one-half for overtime after working 9 hours, instead of 8 hours, the previously established basis, affecting these gifts to the railroads is a rate reduction approximating $50,000,000. "In this article, literal," Thus the railroads through the operation of the labor provisions in the Cummins-Esch law and the arbitrary power of the railroad labor board which that law created, have gained $400,000,000 annually for the railroads. What they have gained through the 8 per cent guarantee on valuation of railroad property which that law gives them is beyond estimate, but it is a safe conjecture that the railroads have taken from the people of the country more than a billion dollars in the last two years.

On the part of the railroad workers they have the privilege of sustaining their cases to the railroad labor board.

Fears Leaders' Inaction More Than Radical Foes

President of Manufacturers' Association Says "National Conscious. ness" Is Needed to Save Nation.

Boston, Jan. 28.—Inactivity of "industrial leaders" is a greater danger to the country than radicals. That's what the newly elected president of the National Association of Manufacturers declared today. He declared in a speech in this city before the manufacturers of the state. He said he is not concerned about the "radical elements." What is particularly needed is some action by the elements that have the power to overcome the effect of Soviet Russia's urging the "international consciousness" among the workers. He said that with the union have lost $35,000,000 by their folly, say those who are familiar with the situation. The loss that knowledge of economic questions is needed to solve the problems of today. That is obvious.

But it is quite patent that a union-busting, American planning, labor-spying, wage-slashing, contract-breaking policy isn't going to lead anywhere but to the field of industrial disaster. And the manufacturers' associations can prevent that by recognizing trade union principles in industry.

MINERS ASK OPERATORS TO KEEP AGREEMENT

Washington, Jan. 28.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers of America declare that if there is a great coal strike April 1 the operators will be responsible for it. The miners' envoys have gone so far as to request the government to urge the mine operators of the central competitive district to hold conferences in accord with the joint agreement entered into March 31, 1920. The agreement was entered into in New York city, and provides "that an interstate joint conference be held prior to April 1, 1922, the time and place of holding such meeting being referred to a committee of two operators and two miners from each state represented, together with the international officers of the United Mine Workers' organization."

The meeting was called by President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers to be held in Pittsburgh, and all mine operators in the field were invited to be represented.

While operators from the Illinois field recognized their obligation and attended the meeting, many from Western Pennsylvania and Ohio declined to carry out the terms of the trade agreement. Because of this declination, some of the operators in the Indiana field decided that a meeting under the circumstances would be futile.

A declaration by a high official of the government that a mine strike is inevitable in the ominous field amazed the miners' officers, in view of the fact that the agreement signed in 1920 brought about the conference of operators which would be a joint agreement. The pact was made to carry out the policy of both miners and operators of the last twenty years whereby strikes could be avoided through joint conferences and wage scales be made in joint conferences. The miners can now see no reason for a change in this policy.

They are prepared to carry out the joint agreement of March 31, 1921. But are the operators?—editorially setting the stage for a strike is an effort to raise the price of coal and lay the blame upon the miners. It's an old dodge.

Porto Ricans Want Island to Be State

Many Bills Have Been Introduced in House for Governing Territory.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Several bills have been introduced in congress defining the status of Porto Rico. The Nolan bill proposes to incorporate the territory and using the revenues of the island for sanitation, education and permanent public works. Barnum bill would enable the people of the island to frame a constitution, organize a state government and be admitted into the union as a state. The Williams bill provides that the people elect their own governor. The Campbell bill creates an autonomous government as the nationalized free state of Porto Rico. A principal feature is the appointment of a resident commissioner of the United States, who will supervise the administration of the government.

"While all these bills the Porto Rican workers prefer," declared Senator Iglesias, the representative of the American Federation of Labor in the island, in this city in the interest of the people. As for them to decide. They have made it plain time and again that they are in favor of American institutions.

"With the exception of the bill creating Porto Rico incorporated territory of the United States and that enabling the island to become a state of the union, none of the bills will solve the political and economic conditions of Porto Rico in the right way and in accord with the free institutions of the American government."

BOILER EXPLOSIONS COSTLY. SAFETY CODE IN 16 STATES

New York, Jan. 28.—Boiler explosions in this country have cost thousands of lives and millions of dollars. The perils secreted in steam boilers, says a report of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, are greater than those of dynamite and claim more explosives. The society is making efforts to have its safety code adopted by all the states. Sixteen have done so, they are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Michigan, California, Missouri, Arkansas, Oregon, Rhode Island Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Oklahoma and Maryland. The cities include Philadelphia, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Mo.; Nashville, Scranton and Seattle.

WIRELESS HELPS FARMERS.

Washington, Jan. 28.—The first national market report to be broadcast by wireless anywhere in the world was sent out by the United States department of agriculture from the radio station of the bureau of standards at Washington at than a year ago. Now reports on the national markets are disseminated daily by the department from wireless stations of the post office department at Cincinnati and Washington. North Platte, Nebr., Dodge City, Kans., Ellis, Nebr., Texas. These reports are received by hundreds of amateur wireless operators. National market reports are also received by state bureaus of markets and agricultural colleges, supplemented with local market reports, and relayed by wireless telegraphy, telephone and the farmers' shipping associations, and other agricultural interests.

COST THEM $35,000,000.

New York, Jan. 28.—Employers who locked out the members of the Ladies' Garment Workers' union last November and broke the strike by starving the workers into submission have lost $35,000,000 by their folly, say those who are familiar with the situation. The loss that knowledge of economic questions is needed to solve the problems of today. That is obvious.

MEN JAILED; NO CHARGE.

Denver, Col., Jan. 24.—Eighteen of the locked-out packinghouse workers who were fired upon from the plant have been arrested for picketing and thrown into jail here. The complaint was filed against them.

Justice Declares "A Court of Equity Is Not a Police Station."

New York, Jan. 28.—Justice Robert F. Wagner of the State Supreme Court, who recently held the breaking of a trade agreement by a manufacturers' association with a trade union to be a conspiracy, has vacated a temporary injunction granted to an embroidery firm a few weeks ago and has refused to enjoin the members of a trade union from picketing the factory of the company, which also violated its trade agreement with the union. In view of the apparent eagerness with which judges usually issue drastic writs of injunction in labor disputes, Justice Wagner's setting aside of the stock judicial reasoning is striking. His decision, in part, follows:

Justice Holds that Equity Courts Are for Purpose of Equity Only.

"The plaintiff employers do not come into court with clean hands, since they breached the collective bargaining contract to which they with others and the defendant union were parties when they tried to force a wage reduction in October. The precedent set in the Hitchman Coal & Coke Company case against the United Mine Workers of America, in the United States Supreme Court, is not authority for the reason that in the Hitchman case there were valid existing contracts which the defendants were attempting to induce the workers to abandon.

Giving his views on the right of workers to picket Justice Wagner said:

"I am also asked to restrain the picketing which the evidence of the defendants are concededly doing in the vicinity of the plaintiff's place of business. I know of no sound principle of law which prohibits picketing. Indeed, I think that it does not transgress on the rights of property. Instead, a great body of law affirmatively establishes the opposite proposition.

Picket Right Is Founded.

"The right to picket is founded on constitutional principles; and, although it might appear from some recent adjudications in certain jurisdictions enforced upon this right, the constitutional guarantee still survives and must be respected and upheld.

"Nor is it material whether one or several pickets be maintained. Right of wrong is not determined by mere numerical considerations. The act of a single picket, if unlawful, is not made wrong because it is performed by several men.

Free Speech Upheld.

"The right to freedom of speech and freedom of action belongs not only to the individual but to individuals combined for a lawful purpose. The general limit on exercising their rights simultaneously does not of itself transmute their act to a conspiracy or illegality.

"Of course, if the employes approached are unwilling to listen to argument or inducement persuasively put forward by defendants, they should not be disturbed for it is the constitutional right of every person to refuse to hold conversation with others, even if such arguments be fortified with wisdom or benefit to the person whose audience is sought.

"The plaintiffs further assert that their legal rights are being violated, because the pickets are attempting to induce plaintiffs' employes to abandon plaintiffs' employ and thus cause a violation of their agreements of employment. Why a plaintiff should not impaired by their own breach of contract their ground for relief would be persuasive."

He asserts that any transgressions of the law should be dealt with in the ordinary way.

"The most drastic, severe and permanent of all injunctions against violence is the penal law," the court held. "A court of equity is not a police station."

Hindu Sailors Prey For Shipping Masters

Practices Said to Violate Seaman's Act Imposed on Oriental Seamen.

New York, Jan. 28.—Eight Hindu sailors, after traveling around the greater part of the world for three months and one-half, in the United States, were amazed to learn that they were in the seaman's boarding house keeper and that the money would be deducted from their wages. They refused to pay and claimed the money was due for board and lodging. The boarding house keeper claimed, however, that not only had they never lodged at his place, but that the provisions of the law unearthed a large number of similar cases, in which the ship, wherein all the earnings of the sailor on a voyage were taken from him to cover the charges for "board and lodging" at the house of the boarding house keeper in question. This is merely one of the incidents in the system of hiring sailors by the boarding house keepers who supply them on shore as well as on the vessels, according to the law in violation of the Seaman's act.

ATTACKS SHIP MONOPOLY FOR "EXTORTIONATE RATES"

Washington, Jan. 28.—Delegate Sutherland, representing Alaska, has made a vigorous protest in the house against what he terms the extortionate rates charged Alaska by the transportation monopoly. Ocean freight rates to Alaska, he declared, have not been decreased since the war, and it is not the intention of the monopoly to reduce them, even though it has fought a seaman's strike against a 15 per cent reduction in wages and has recently been granted a liberal mail subsidy by the postoffice.

"In the industrial war against the seamen," charged the delegate, "this public showed considerable sympathy with the companies, but it was assumed that a reduction in wages would mean reduced freight rates. As usual, the public fooled itself, as the saving in operating did not inure to the benefit to the coffers of the monopoly.

"COMPANY UNIONS" HEADING FOR THE SCRAP PILE.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Reports from various sections of the country indicate that those loose-jointed "societies" of labor which meet at the call of the employer president and graced by him with the title of "mutual benefit associations in industry," but commonly known as "company unions," which were originally designed to put "work" into the workers, are rapidly falling to pieces, and are headed for the scrap pile.

The company union thus is neither "mutually beneficial" nor even agreeable to the workers. They realize the money collected from them by the employer is used to increase their burdens instead of to lift them.

They have no defense funds; they are card-indexed in the company's office; they are reported on by their "brothers" to the company's agents at the executive committee meetings "when both workers and employers sit at the same table as equals;" they are constantly being sought to sign petitions for wage reductions and to vote against "the company," to their own detriment.

In short, they know they are being pushed down the hill of life, with the "company union" operating the pusher.

The planners of the "company union" overlook two vital lines in their blue print designs—justice and democracy.

Workers understand both, and they refuse to be fed the shadow for the substance.

Prosperous industry must rest upon these principles. To insure their perpetuity the legitimate trade union must be accepted as the expression of the workers' ideals and the spokesman of labor in the industrial forum.

This is a fundamental truth because the legitimate trade union is the heart, the mind and the soul of the worker himself, and the worker will not be enslaved.

PHOTO-ENGRAVERS WIN ALL ALONG THE LINE

Chicago, Jan. 28.—The commercial employers' open shop campaign of the International Photo-engravers' union two months ago have learned a valuable lesson in the school of experience. They have the notice of surrender nailed to the mastheads in nearly every city in which they started the row. The union's decisive defeat of the New York commercial employers a week ago evidently ended the rout, and in not a single instance has the union given ground, holding to the 44-hour week and opposing reductions in wages. The employers made a general demand for the 48-hour week and wage reductions ranging from 10 to 20 per cent., afterward modified to 5% and 15 per cent. Throughout the country approximately 2,500 men had been locked out.

Practically all of these have returned to work upon the union's terms. Besides New York the engravers have returned to work under union conditions in Chicago, where 500 men were locked out; Philadelphia, with 200 men involved; Newark, N. J.; Pittsburgh, except two shops; Cleveland, 125 men, all shops; Columbus, 25 men, all shops; Cincinnati, 80 men, all shops; Detroit, all shops; Canton, 22 men, all shops; St. Louis, 90 men; Milwaukee, 85; Des Moines, one shop, others settled without lockout; Indianapolis, 54 men in all shops; Kansas City, 60 men; Fort Worth, 6 men; Houston, all but one shop; Fort Smith, 14 men. Partial settlements were made in many other cities and in still others negotiations for new agreements are under way and are being carried on with success.

In Minneapolis and St. Paul employers broke agreements by locking out the workers. All but four have since come to terms with the union and returned to the shops under the conditions which prevailed before the strike.

In Denver the employers not only locked out the workers, but in doing so violated the state industrial law.

In a letter of congratulation to the membership of the union Matthew Woll, international president, says:

"The chief reason why the employers upon the members of our local unions. How successful they have resisted their organized demands, how generally we have justified the correctness of our cause and how efficiently we have mastered the situation is best illustrated by our victories."

Public Forest Control A National Necessity

United States Consuming Wood Four Times as Fast as It Is Being Grown.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Immediate action by Congress to insure a continuous supply of timber from the best suited to this use was advocated by the chief of the forest service of the United States department of agriculture before the senate committee on public lands holding hearings on a bill to check destruction of forests and encourage reforestation. Commissioner Greeley declared that Federal control is necessary because the United States is now consuming wood four times as fast as it is being grown. Extensive areas of the virgin forests have been cut, leaving into land, cut over, or wholly unproductive. Two-thirds of the lumber users in the United States are dependent upon the timber supply alone than they were twenty-five years ago. The country faces definitely a growing scarcity and increasing cost of everything made from wood.

"The problem is nation-wide and must be dealt with in a nation-wide way," said the head of the forest service. "There is definite aim in Federal legislation on this subject must be to make sure that all forest lands in the United States, whatever their ownership, are kept productive. Productive not as fast as one crop of timber is cut another is started. By this means only can the needs of the country be adequately met. There is no lack of land, if all that is needed for agriculture can be kept at work producing wood. Federal control, therefore, of reforestation forest land now idle to productive use, and of preventing the wearing merchantable timber or bearing growth from becoming idle and barren by fires or destructive methods of logging."

CONGRESS' AID SOUGHT FOR SUFFERING MINERS

Washington, Jan. 28.—Appropriation of $500,000 is asked by resolution introduced in the house by Representative Thomas, of Kentucky, for the relief of suffering coal miners and their families in Kentucky, West Virginia, Alabama, Ohio and Pennsylvania, who, because of unemployment, are in need of immediate relief. Should the appropriation be made, the president of the United States is authorized and directed to expend the money through such agencies as he may designate.

KANSAS' LEGAL WAGE LOW.

Topeka, Jan. 28.—Minimum wages for women workers of Kansas are $8.50 a week. An effort will be made before the industrial court which will hold hearings in February to increase this amount. The merchants of the state will oppose any change. It is said, they are interested in forcing the matter to court that increase of overhead charges will not injure families in the state. That's another old one.

HITS AT INJUNCTIONS.

Boston, Jan. 28.—Amendment of the constitution to prevent "the growing abuse of injunctions in labor disputes" is proposed by the state federation of labor. The amendment declares that "no restraining order or injunction shall be issued by any court in any case involving a dispute over hours, wages or any terms or conditions of working men and women are employed."

GLOVEWORKERS' SHOP PAYS.

Chicago, Jan. 28.—About 14 months ago the Gloveworkers' union of this city engaged in glovemaking on a small scale as an experiment, with a $5,000 working capital behind the project. At a recent directors' meeting the first annual report showed a profit, justifying payment of 8 per cent dividend. Despite the business slump, the glovemakers' business venture did not lose a day.

COST OF LIVING STATISTICS SUSTAIN WORKERS' SIDE

WAGE STANDARD MUST BE UPHELD

Cutting Down of Buying Power Creates Conditions Which Multiply Economic Problems and Injures All, Some.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Seventy-one per cent is the average of the increase in living costs from December, 1914, to December, 1921; for eleven of the medium cities of the nation. As these cities embrace all sections of the country, with their varied pursuits, it is a safe estimate to place the increase for the whole country at least at 70 per cent: Speaking in terms of wages, this means that a worker who received $50 a week in 1914 should now be paid 70 per cent more, or an increase of $21 a week, making the wages received $51, in order to maintain the living standard he had in 1914.

This does not take into account the changes which took place in the upgrade of living costs during the war years. In some cases this change represented an increase over normal of 122.2 per cent, Norfolk, Va., showing such a rise, while in Washington the peak prices were approximately 110 per cent in June, 1920. The general average may be said now to correspond with the prices of December, 1918.

The wages of labor, as a rule, are based upon the cost of calendar periods, the time varying from six months to two years. If there is an upward scaling in living costs in the time for which the wages have been fixed, the worker must sacrifice to that degree his standard of living. The only chance he has for equalizing wages with living costs is that which prevails at the time the scale is made.

Thus it happens that at the period of peak prices—June, 1920—few wage scales were under negotiation, the rates having been fixed either in the preceeding January or April, which represented a difference, in some instances, of 15 to 25 per cent, which the workers had to meet out of their private stocks, if there were any. If there was no reserve, then the standard of living had to give way.

The wage earners, including those on salary, are the only persons in society whose small or big living fluctuates downward with rising prices. Those who live off the investments of capital—rent, interest, stock dividends, bonds and mortgages—are in position to shift the burden without ascribing a single comfort or necessity.

National prosperity requires the upholding of living standards of the workers because wages represent a steady stream of purchasing power. Without this steady stream of purchasing power, industry, commerce and agriculture are adversely affected.

Advocates of low wages and wage-cutting view the question, aside from their selfishness, from a narrow standpoint; so narrow, in fact, that they cannot see the outskirts of the circle of which they are a part, which in the end is bound to close in on them and retard their own progress, if it does not crush them.

In short, the breaking down of living standards of the workers means in the long run the congestion and disorganization of the business of the country. That accomplished, the nation is confronted with a tremendous task to recover, a task which brings in its train its own problems that multiply evils and retard progress.

Wage-cutting solves nothing—it simply complicates the national troubles.

The Family Budget.

The cost of food stressed by employers' statisticians when discussing wage changes is only 38.2 per cent of the whole family budget. The following are the divisions of the budget and the percentage of each to the total:

	Per Cent
Food	38.2
Clothing	16.6
Housing	12.5
Fuel and light	6.3
Furniture and furnishings	5.1
Miscellaneous	21.3
Total	100.0

The seven cities reported by the United States department of labor's bureau of statistics, giving the increase in the cost of living from December, 1914, to December, 1921, are:

	Per cent
Boston, Mass.	70.2
Buffalo, N. Y.	74.8
Cleveland, Ohio	76.4
Houston, Texas	72.8
Jacksonville, Fla.	75.1
Los Angeles, Cal.	76.4
Norfolk, Va.	122.2
Portland, Maine	69.2
Portland, Oregon	73.3
San Francisco and Oakland, Cal.	62.6
Seattle, Wash.	71.8

Cost of Family Wash Interests Pennsy

Employes of Division Amused by Questionaire Sent Out by Company to Workers.

Baltimore, Jan. 3.—Employes of one of the divisions of the Pennsylvania system have recently been asked by the officials of the division to fill out a blank form, which apparently is designed to advise the company of all the intimate details of the employe's life and how he spends his wages:

Name.
Occupation.
Number of years in service of P. R. R.
Married or single.
Do you own your own home, or do you rent?
Are you obligated to use street railway cars?
How ride daily?
Taxes (State, city, county).
House rental.
Single bus room rental.
Property (purchase price).
Property (repairs, painting, plumbing).
Water rental.
Coal, or gas?
Cost of wood (for stoves).
Gas, electricity.
Board (show cost per week).
Shoes.
Clothes.
Cost of clothing (general).
Groceries (general).
Insurance (fire, liability, life).
Laundry bills.

One of those who filled out the blank said that the matter was "The Buzz, alias Jimmy Valentine," and that his occupation was "monkeying with other workers and with the monkey house." These statistics, no doubt will be of great value to the Pennsy, for it is said the distribution of the blanks created much amusement among the workers.

Coal Shipped to State Where Mines Are Idle

Iowa Miners Protest Government Action in Supplying Hospital With Fuel.

Colfax, Iowa, Jan. 28.—West Virginia coal has been shipped here by the government for use at a government hospital. The West Virginia coal costs $12 a ton delivered at the hospital. Colfax coal can be had for $7.00 a ton. Because of the barely sufficient to prevent the miners of this place have sent a protest to the Iowa members of Congress. In their protest the mineworkers declare they have been working only one and two days a week and have worked only 211 days in the first eleven months of 1921. Another year would be added to the working schedule if the government would buy its supply of coal here for use of its hospital; it would save $4.50 a ton. The business of the town is almost wholly dependent upon coal mining.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW OPPOSED BY EMPLOYERS

San Francisco, Jan. 28.—Sixteen dollars a week is the minimum wage established by law for women workers in California. Some employers of the state are now carrying on a strenuous campaign to reduce the minimum, despite the fact that public hearings under the supervision of the industrial welfare commission show that the present wage is barely sufficient to maintain a standard of proper living. The labor organizations of the state are opposing any reduction of the present minimum standard of women's wages.

MUST TAKE TIME TO EAT.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 28.—Knowledge of industries in this state is at least must take sufficient time to eat their lunches, even if the employes the work rules of the state industrial board in a case brought before it on the application of a Philadelphia concern. The board also declared that "half an hour is not sufficient time to obtain a meal when the workday practically extends to ten hours. We grow more human every day."

WOMEN QUIT R. R. SHOPS.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Women employed in railroad shop work decreased 58.9 per cent from 1919 to 1920, according to statistics of the interstate commerce commission. Women employed in clerical work increased 14.4 per cent in the same period. Nearly 100,000 women are now employed by Class I railroads.

Iowa Not a Paradise For Working Women

State Has No Code of Working Hours or Minimum Wage Scale.

Washington, Jan. 28.—Iowa has no code of working hours or minimum wage scale for women, nor has it a complete code of regulating conditions. The state laws governing the employment of women are vague and inadequate, the power to enforce them ineffective and the appropriations small, reports of the women's bureau of the United States department of labor in bulletin 15. In the establishments throughout the state, coming via the report, there are instances in which employers have installed modern sanitary facilities and attractive restrooms for the comfort of their employes. These instances are few.

The instances are many where nothing has been done for the workers, or where, though the merchantile equipment of the plant is up to date in every respect, the human equipment has not kept pace with the recognition the machinery commands in oiling and cleaning.